Only This (1) T. Harris 1657 (313 9

DEVONSHIRE HOUSE BISHOPSGATE WITHOUT E.C.

To all your Commanders and Officers of the Army in Scotland, especially: and to all elsewhere.

WHO have been eye witnesses of the favour and kindnes of the Lord unto you, and have been partakers of many and great deliverances, who have seen the power of the Lord going before you, and his righteousnesse being your rereward, when they said in their hearts, you should become as a booty unto them, and as a prey to feed upon, then the Lord appeared for his own name sake, and did lift up a standard against them, and made them as driven stubble before the bow, even when they swelled as *Jordan*, not that you might glory in strength, nor in your own activity, but in him who taught your hands to war, and your fingers to fight, even when you were but low, weak and unable, in your own sight, then did he appear in his strengh, that none might glory but in him, whose arm hath brought Salvation, and hath given your lives for a prey; And hath raised up many of you from low estate, even as from the sheepfold, to be Rulers of thousands and hundreds, of fifties and tens. Consider the years past, and call to mind the former days of old, and see where you are now, if you are not degenerated from the first integrity, & fallen into the same practice, & abomination as they were in, whom the Lord scattered before you, cast out as an abominable branch; & do not think in your hearts that the Lord hath given your enemies into your hands, and made them tributary unto you, that so you might glory in your strength, & grow up to the same abomination of the Nation, and follow the lusts of your hearts, & swell up in pride through the aboundance of spoyl & treasure. But it was well said by the Prophet, When *Ephraim* spake trembling he exalted himself in *Israel*, but when he offended in *Baal* he died; and this was a commandment to *Israel*, that when they came into the Land which the Lord gave to their Fathers, they were not to worship strange Gods, neither to walk after the custome of the Heathen: What was the cause, do ye judge, that God blasted the enemies in this Land, and turned their counsell backwards,

and their wiſdome into folly, and made their Prophets fools, and their Deviners mad? was it becauſe you were more then they, or your ſtrength greater then theirs, let that in your conſciences judg? Or was it becauſe the Lord was weary with the Oppreſſion of the Rulers, who grinded the faces of the poor, and with the Hypocriſie of the Prieſts and Teachers, and with the falſe-heartedneſſe of the people, for every one dealt falſly and treacherouſly with the Lord? And yet they were ſo proud, they could not be content herewith, but as the mouth of hell is never ſatisfied, no more were they except all would bow down to their King whom they would have ſet up, and the Prieſts for their Calfe were ſo zealous, either muſt all ſubmit to this, or elſe nothing but fire and ſword, and deſtruction on the right hand, and on the left was threatned, but the Lord ſaw the pride of *Moab*, and conſidered it, and made her ſerve who ſat as a Queen; Not becauſe, as I ſay, you were great, or mightier, or ſtronger, but for his own name ſake, and for making way for a further thing, which many yet cannot ſee, even that his everlaſting truth might find way and be publiſhed, according to his own will, for the advancement of his own glory: and he will declare it by whom he will, and where he will, and when he will, though to the croſſing of all mens wills; although ſome would hedge him up by a Law made in their wills, or limit him to a time; and many ſhut his Meſſengers out, and ſay as *Amaziah* the Prieſt of *Bethel* to *Amos*, this is the Kings Chappel, or as ſome ſay a Garriſon, or ſome probibited place by a Law; yet that which would limit the holy one muſt be made even with Earth.

Hath the Lord caſt them out, and hath planted you in, and hath he given you Dominion over Provinces, Towns and Cities, which you builded not, that you ſhould walk in their footſteps, oh may be ſure of this the Lord will viſit you for theſe things; Are not many of you countenancing the Prieſts and Teachers of this Nation, and upholding the ſame worſhip, which ſome of you in years paſt would have been aſhamed of, and are not you going to learn of them, and to be taught by them, who before *Dunbar*, Prophecyed all your deſtruction, and your totall overthrow, and delivered you up to Satan as Heriticks: and ſo were made falſe Prophets, and tellers of lies in the ſight of all their own Nation, and alſo to your underſtanding

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ding: and were they deceived then, and falſe Prophets then, and incendaries to imbroyl all the poor people of this Nation in blood to fight for their imagined calſe Presbitery; and are they now become your Teachers? O tell it not in *Gath*, nor publiſh it not in *Askelon*, leaſt the uncircumciſed rejoyce and laugh at your folly; Will you joyn to *Baal*, and ſerve *Aſhteroth*? oh let *Baal* plead for himſelfe: And muſt theſe now be upholden by the Sword, as the Miniſters of Chriſt, and be defended? Will you ſuffer them to put out your eyes, that they may make you grind like *Sampſon* at a Mill? Are not they all out of the Doctrin of Chriſt, and out of the practice of all Prophets, Chriſt and his Miniſtry? Are not they time-ſervers, hirelings, greeedy of filthy lucre, fierce, deſpiſers of thoſe that are good? Are not they wholly without the life of godlineſſe, and alſo quite without a true form? ſearch the Scriptures and ſee if they declare not againſt all ſuch practiſes. Truly I may ſay, as the Prophet ſaid of the Prieſts of *Jeruſalem*, *Prophaneſſe is gone out from them into all Nations, for they have daubed with untempered morter, and luld people in ſecurity, and have cryed peace unto them, when they have all walked according to the Imaginations of their own hearts*; in few words this I ſay unto you, The helper and helped will both fall together.

Againe, Another great evill is found amongſt you, who ſometimes have been aſſerters of liberty, and have ſaid, it would be great happines to obtain liberty of conſcience, to worſhip God in Spirit and truth, as he was made manifeſt; but now, when you are tried, you are ſetting to have your ſelves worſhipped with caps & knees, and in language, ſuch as all the holy men of God never owned nor knew, and have forgotten the rock from whence you were hewn; have you not turned ſome of the Souldiers out of the Army, who have jeoperded their lives in the time of the greteſt ſtraits in the high places in the field, onely for conſcience ſake, becauſe they cannot ſubmit to your wills, nor give that to man which belongs to God, and this hath the Lord againſt you. Therefore all be warned in time, and take heed you ſwell not up in pride, and walk lofty upon the mountains of arrogancy, for pride goes before deſtruction, neither learne ye the cuſtomes of them whom the Lord hath brought down, leſt the ſame be your portion as theirs, and take heed of eaſe

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in the flesh, and of doing violence to the honest, and them that fear the Lord amongst you, for then you bear the Sword in vaine, and are no Souldiers for God; but the Sword is to be turned against the violent doer, & you ought to be an incouragement to them that do well, but how far some of you is from this, the light of Christ in your consciences will let you see. Let me tell you, the Lord hath made some of you instrumental to levell the mountains without, & to cut down the rough places which were not passable, see that you boast not your selvs against him that hewd with you: for as I said before, this which is done is but a allpreparation to somthing further, which he himselfe will bring and is bringing about, & that by weak things, & things that are not, see you despise it not, & so loose the reward of all you have done, for not by might, nor by power, nor by sword shield, or buckler without, but by his own arm will he bring salvation, and exalt his own horn above all his enemies, & will bring salvation to his own seed. And now oh be wise & resist him not in his way lest ye be numbred amongst Transgressors, & your memorial wear out, & you perish amogst them that gainsay.

Now he is bringing down the mountains within, and staining the pride and glory of all flesh, and sifting the Nations, and all the chaffe shall be blown away, and all abominations shall be brought to judgement, and the dead great and small shall arise, and every one shall receive according to his works, for he is risen in his strength as a man of war, to wound the head of the Dragon in the Sea, and to put a hook in the mouth of Leviathan, the old Dragon, and he is come to bind him, & to chain him up that he deceive the Nations no more. And this he will doe, and is bringing to passe by the little stone cut out of the mountaine without hands, he will smite downe the great Image of profession, and make their carkasses fall with their Idols, that nothing but himselfe may raigne: that all may know that the most high rules in the Kingdome of the children: therefore love justice, truth, and righteousnes, and be not examples of evill to the Nations, neither to your Souldery, nor open not the mouths of the Heathen, nor strengthen the hand of evill-doers, least you fall together: but all mind that which searcheth the hearts, and shews you sin, and will preserve you out of it; if you (the light which comes from Christ which he hath enlightned you withall) mind, here is your teacher and leader present, & if you hate it it will condemn you, & all your actions together, & misery will be the end, harden not your hearts against instruction, lest you perish amongst fools, & there be no more rembrance of you.

By a friend to righteousnes and just power,

Leith, 14 5 Month, called *July* 1657.

FRANCIS HOWGILL.